

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE - JULY 12
1. PLENARY JULY 12 AFTERNOON HEARD SPEECHS BY AUSTRIA,
IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, ILO, UNIDO AND ICC.

2. THE AUSTRIAN REP OUTLINED THE DILEMMA DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES COUNTRIES NOW FACE, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS
HAVING TO TAKE BOLD DECISIONS VIS-A-VIS THE WORLD ECONOMIC
SITUATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING RELUCTANT TO
UNDERTAKE NEW TASKS IN VIEW OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC
DIFFICULTIES. HE NOTED THE U.N. HAS A SPECIAL ROLE OF
LEADERSHIP IN THESE TIMES AND THAT THE COW PRESENTS AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE U.N. TO DEVELOP SUCH LEADERSHIP.
AUSTRIA WELCOMED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COW WHICH
SHOULD UNDERTAKE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY, INTEGRATED REVIEW
OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE FAILURE OF THE FIRST
SESSION OF THE COW COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO INADEQUATE
PREPARATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS BEFORE IT MET WHICH
RESULTED IN DIFFERING EXPECTATIONS FROM DIFFERING
GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. IT WAS, TO HIS MIND, IMMATERIAL
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WHETHER THE COW ISSUED DECISIONS, CONCLUDING REPORTS,
ETC., WHAT WAS IMPORTANT MUST BE THAT THE COW HAVE
MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS IN SELECT AREAS WHERE THERE IS
ADVANCED EVIDENCE OF THE CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ARE
POSSIBLE - IT MUST WORK TO EXPAND THESE AREAS OF CONVER-
GENCE INTO BROADER AREAS OF AGREEMENT. HE OUTLINED THE
SALIENT PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY AS INCREASING

PROTECTIONISM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE FOR A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE COMMON FUND NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE NEED TO DEAL WITH ENERGY PROBLEMS (WELCOMING THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON ENERGY). AUSTRIA ALSO WELCOMED THE OUTCOME OF THE SSOD, STATING THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE VIGOROUS TO ENABLE THE UNDERTAKING OF MASSIVE TRANSFERS OF RESOURCES FROM DC TO LDC UNDER "MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS CONDITIONS".

3. ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD REGRETTED THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE U.S. FROM ILO AND THE ABSENCE OF ALOOFNESS ON THE PART OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAS FOLLOWED. FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF U.S. WITHDRAWAL HAVE RECESSITATED DEFERRAL OR CUTTING BACK OF MANY PROGRAMS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ORGANIZATION'S UNIVERSALITY WILL BE RESTORED. ILO HAD TAKEN IMPORTANT ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY ADMITTING NAMIBIA, HOLDING TWO SPECIAL PLENARY SITTINGS ON APARTHEID, AND INCREASING ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. REMAINDER OF HIS SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONCEPT. IT IS NOT AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE STRATEGY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION BUT RATHER ADDS A NEW VARIABLE TO IT. IT IS AN INSTRUMENT TO CREATE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURES AND HENCE EMPLOYMENT. THE SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED AND PRESIDENT OF ECOSOC ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL GAVE AN APPRECIATIVE STATEMENT AFTER IT.
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4. AMB. FARTASH OF IRAN SPOKE AND CRITICIZED THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR ITS INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS. IT IS NOT A NEGOTIATING FORUM. INSTEAD COW MUST NOW IDENTIFY THOSE MEASURES OF IDS AND 6TH AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSIONS WHICH ARE YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED AND SHOULD MAKE APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS. FIRST SESSION FAILED AS A RESULT OF DIFFERENCES REGARDING INTERPRETATION OF ITS MANDATE. THIS MUST BE AVOIDED AT NEXT SESSION.

5. UNIDO DIRECTOR GENERAL KLAUS SPOKE BRIEFLY ON IMPORTANCE OF ENERGY AND CONSERVATION AND PRICING POLICIES TO DEVELOPMENT.

6. AFGHANISTAN SPEAKER CITED SOME PROGRESS IN WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION IN 1977 BUT REITERATED THAT NO MAJOR STEPS TOWARDS RECTIFYING GLOBAL IMBALANCE HAD OCCURED. THIS IMBALANCE COULD GENERALLY BE ASCRIBED TO OLD IMPERIALIST WORLD ORDER. FINALLY, LANDLOCKED AND LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NEEDED PARTICULAR HELP IN FORM OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL FUND, AND IN GRANTING OF RIGHT OF FREE ACCESS TO THE SEA.

OF FREE ACCESS TO THE SEA.
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7. INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GAVE USUAL
STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO DEVELOPMENT
PROCESS. VANDEN HEUVEL

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